

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1023

To authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish an awards program in honor of Charles “Pete” Conrad, astronaut and space scientist, for recognizing the discoveries made by amateur astronomers of asteroids with near-Earth orbit trajectories.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 1, 2005

Mr. ROHRABACHER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish an awards program in honor of Charles “Pete” Conrad, astronaut and space scientist, for recognizing the discoveries made by amateur astronomers of asteroids with near-Earth orbit trajectories.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Charles ‘Pete’ Conrad
5 Astronomy Awards Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For the purposes of this Act—

3 (1) the term “Administrator” means the Ad-
4 ministrator of the National Aeronautics and Space
5 Administration;

6 (2) the term “amateur astronomer” means an
7 individual whose employer does not provide any
8 funding, payment, or compensation to the individual
9 for the observation of asteroids and other celestial
10 bodies, and does not include any individual employed
11 as a professional astronomer;

12 (3) the term “Minor Planet Center” means the
13 Minor Planet Center of the Smithsonian Astro-
14 physical Observatory;

15 (4) the term “near-Earth asteroid” means an
16 asteroid with a perihelion distance of less than 1.3
17 Astronomical Units from the Sun; and

18 (5) the term “Program” means the Charles
19 “Pete” Conrad Astronomy Awards Program estab-
20 lished under section 3.

21 **SEC. 3. PETE CONRAD ASTRONOMY AWARD PROGRAM.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish
23 the Charles “Pete” Conrad Astronomy Awards Program.

24 (b) AWARDS.—The Administrator shall make awards
25 under the Program based on the recommendations of the
26 Minor Planet Center.

1 (c) AWARD CATEGORIES.—The Administrator shall
2 make one annual award, unless there are no eligible dis-
3 coveries or contributions, for each of the following cat-
4 egories:

5 (1) The amateur astronomer or group of ama-
6 teur astronomers who in the preceding calendar year
7 discovered the intrinsically brightest near-Earth as-
8 teroid among the near-Earth asteroids that were dis-
9 covered during that year by amateur astronomers or
10 groups of amateur astronomers.

11 (2) The amateur astronomer or group of ama-
12 teur astronomers who made the greatest contribu-
13 tion to the Minor Planet Center’s mission of cata-
14 logging near-Earth asteroids during the preceding
15 year.

16 (d) AWARD AMOUNT.—An award under the Program
17 shall be in the amount of \$3,000.

18 (e) GUIDELINES.—(1) No individual who is not a cit-
19 izen or permanent resident of the United States at the
20 time of his discovery or contribution may receive an award
21 under this Act.

22 (2) The decisions of the Administrator in making
23 awards under this Act are final.

24 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—From
25 sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated, there are

- 1 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
- 2 essary to carry out this Act.

